**Mr. Zeko: Digital Photo B: Green Screen Projects**

**Step One: Shooting**

* Compose your shot-use your pixels wisely-get close -don’t waste pixels on excess green screen.
* Shoot in highest quality-perhaps set camera to RAW.
* If shooting a solo portrait, be sure to shoot vertically.
* Use both studio lamps-and make sure green screen is evenly lit.

**Step Two: Backgrounds**

* Go to Safari and search for a background. I prefer using **Yahoo** images as you can open a tab on the left and select image size. Search for large images (like 1920x1200 pixels).
* Try typing in simple language such as “studio backgrounds.”
* It is usually best to find backgrounds with some green in them as it hides green “fringes” around subjects’ head and hair.
* Make sure you open the full size image (not thumbnail)-and then right click and save to desktop.

**Step Three: *Photoshop-***Sizing

* Drag both images into ***Photoshop CS5*** to open. Drag two images apart to separate them.
* Compare sizes. Check the magnification size at top of image. Use the control and + keys to make both images the same magnification (e.g. 16.7%, 25%). If your subject portrait is too big for your background you must either find a larger background image or resize your subject portrait.
* If you need to resize subject, go to **Image** tab at top menu, click and then select **Image Size**.
* In the middle of dialogue box you’ll see **Document Size**. You can resize your image by changing either the width or height of image to a more appropriate size (as long as “**constrain proportions**” box is checked, changing height will change width and vise-versa).
* Now recheck image sizes. If **both** images are magnified at 16.7% or 25% (for instance), the subject should be of a size that will fit appropriately on the background image.

**Step Three: *Photoshop-***Removing green background

* With subject photo selected click on **Select** tab at top of menu. Now click on **Color Range** tab.
* When dialogue box opens you should see a silhouette of your portrait.
* Look for the “eyedroppers” on the right side of box-select the middle dropper with the + symbol.
* Now click on all the green screen areas until the background areas (white) are completely white (basically you are selecting all the shades of green in background).
* Once you are done selecting/sampling the background, move the “**Fuzziness**” slider to the **right** as far as you can go before you lose perfect black in the subject. What you want is a perfectly white background and a perfectly black subject. When finished click “ok.”
* Now go back to top menu, click **Select** and then click **Inverse** (fourth item down). This will select everything ***except*** the green screen colors you’ve previously selected.

**Step Three: *Photoshop-***Merging images

* Now that you’ve selected the inverse on subject photo, look at tool palette (usually on left) and make sure you have the **move** (top) tool selected.
* Click on highlighted area of studio portrait and drag subject onto background-position image to your liking. If you already sized images correctly, subject should fit nicely on background.
* If portrait is too big or too small for your background, hold down **command** key and the letter “**T**.” This will open the **free transform** option. You may now resize your subject by clicking on a corner and dragging to your desired size. Make sure you hold the **shift key** while you drag the corner (this will constrain proportions (width and height). When done, click off image, and then click “ok-apply transformation.”

**Step Three: *Photoshop-***Touching up and saving

* Using command and + keys, zoom in on image. Using the spot healing too (Band-Aid in palette), click and remove blemishes.
* If your subject has red-eye, right click on Band-Aid and open the red-eye dialogue box.
* Using the eraser tool in palette, zoom on image and try to remove some of the green around head and hair.
* Finally, go to File tab and select Save As. Name your file in the dialogue box and then under format tab select JPEG to change file from PSD file to JPEG. Choose location (desktop) and save your file.